

Science for a **better life**



// Trending Topics from the VMST

## Quality Wildlife Habitats with Brush Sculpting using Method<sup>®</sup> 240SL

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*At Bayer, we are dedicated to delivering you the tools and tips to provide and protect wildlife environments.*

*Woody plants have an important role in wildlife habitat. Brush provides important cover for many species of wildlife as well as highly nutritional browse in the forms of leaves, seeds, berries, and mast. Although beneficial, it is possible to have too much brush and woody plant cover, which may need manipulation depending upon the wildlife species being managed.*

Herbicides are important tools for sculpting wildlife habitat and can be integrated with other brush management methods to achieve a preferred habitat for desired wildlife. Method<sup>®</sup> 240SL herbicide is labeled for wildlife management areas that are not grazed by domestic livestock and can selectively impact species composition, plant densities, stand architecture, and temporal and spatial distribution of plant communities.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS.  
Bayer Environmental Science, a Division of Bayer CropScience LP, 5000 CentreGreen Way, Suite 400, Cary, NC 27513. For additional product information, call toll-free 1-800-331-2867. [environmentalscience.bayer.us](http://environmentalscience.bayer.us). Not all products are registered in all states. Bayer, the Bayer Cross and Method are registered trademarks of Bayer. Garlon and Remedy are trademarks of Dow AgroSciences. Conejet is a registered trademark of TeeJet, a subsidiary of Spraying Systems Co. ©2019 Bayer CropScience LP.





## Stewardship

Too much brush control can have detrimental effects on habitat. Brush sculpting is a method to achieve the correct balance between woody plants, cacti, herbaceous plants, grasses and bareground. Since different wildlife species have varying requirements, careful planning with an end-goal in mind is critical. Treatment considerations should include:

1. Size, mosaics, and patterns of treatment
2. Herbicide drift prevention
3. Application methods and timing
4. Composition, density, and arrangement

In general, white-tailed deer habitat consists of woody plants interspersed with openings. The percentage of each depends on plant species composition, woody plant canopy cover and structure, topography and amount of disturbance. Generally, created openings shouldn't exceed 40% in arid and semi-arid zones; or exceed 60% in dry, sub-humid zones. These openings typically range from 20-40 acres in size, are interspersed and juxtaposed within the woodland matrix, and surrounded by sufficient brush to provide screening cover. Brush along travel lanes, corridors and drainages should be left intact.

For Bobwhite Quail and Rio Grande Turkeys, at least 10-20% brush cover is recommended with suitable, well-distributed coverts and mottes, sufficient herbaceous screening, and travel cover. In general, brush cover in strips shouldn't be over 100 yards apart and not more than 30-40 yards apart when in blocks. Blocks or mottes should be at least three to four yards in diameter. Brush strips should be 15-20 yards wide. No more than 80% of a pasture should be treated. Approximately 20-30% bareground is also desirable.

Turkeys also require roost trees and these should not be disturbed. Regrowth and short brush should be removed with individual plant treatments (IPT) under and around roost trees.

It should be noted that herbaceous plants (e.g. forbs) will be significantly decreased or eliminated for one to three growing seasons after herbicides are used. However, dead brush skeletons will serve as cover and will support growth of ground cover for several years post-treatment. In addition, most herbicides will not kill 100% of the brush cover and most will be selective for specific species.

## Application

Method® 240SL can be applied alone or tank-mixed with triclopyr (the active ingredient in Remedy® Ultra, Garlon® 3A, and other generic formulations) to control mesquite, huisache, and other undesirable species in wildlife management areas. An amine formulation of triclopyr should be used where vapor drift onto nearby susceptible crops or vegetation is a concern.

### //// Broadcast

For taller and denser stands of mesquite on larger acreages, broadcast Method® 240SL at rates of 8-12 fl. oz./A in a tank mix with 10.6-16 fl. oz./A of triclopyr amine (3 lb./gallon amine formulation) in the late spring or early summer.

For huisache, use 12 fl. oz./A of Method 240SL tank-mixed with 16 fl. oz./A of triclopyr amine (3 lb/gallon amine formulation) in the fall. It may be applied aerially in water with a minimum carrier volume of 4 gal./A and by ground with 10 gal./A. A methylated seed oil adjuvant (MSO) at the proper rate must be included for adequate performance.

### //// Individual Plant Treatments

Individual Plant Treatments using foliar, stem spray, and cut stump methods are used to selectively thin stands, to alter architecture, and to promote wildlife accessibility in stands of mesquite, huisache, and other susceptible brush species.

### //// Leaf sprays

Leaf sprays are applied to the foliage of individual plants. For most woody plant species, the spring and summer growing seasons are the most effective time for treatment. Foliage should be mature, healthy and free from insect or disease damage. The herbicide is mixed with water, a surfactant and a dye. The spray should be mixed at a concentration of 0.5% Method 240 SL+ 0.5% Remedy Ultra or 0.5% Method 240 SL + 0.66% Garlon 3A. This is equivalent to 2 qts. Method 240 SL + 2 qts. Remedy Ultra/100 gal. spray mix or 2 qts. Method 240 SL + 85 oz. Garlon 3A/100 gal. spray mix. Remember to add the recommended rate of an MSO or NIS spray adjuvant and a spray dye marker to the spray mix.

### //// Stem sprays

Stem sprays are applied to the basal stems of target plants. Stem sprays are most effective on smooth barked plants and plants with one or a few basal stems. The best time to apply stem sprays with Method 240SL is during the summer. Method 240SL should be mixed at a concentration of 10-15% with water. This is equal to 13-20 fl. oz. of Method 240SL per gallon spray mix. Add 0.5% to 1% methylated seed oil (MSO) adjuvant and a water-soluble spray dye.

### //// Cut stump sprays

Cut stump applications are made to the cut surface of the target plant. The plant is severed at ground line with anything from a chain saw to hydraulic shears. It is important that the cut stump is severed level and free of dirt on the cut surface. The treatment method can be used any time of the year, but application of the herbicide solution must occur immediately after cutting. The cut surface should be wetted, paying particular attention to the edges of the stump, allowing the spray mix to flow slightly down the outside cut surface.

Method 240SL should be mixed at a concentration of 2.5-5.0% with water. This is equal to 3-6 fl. oz. of Method 240SL added to water resulting in a total one gallon spray batch. Also add 0.5% to 1% methylated seed oil (MSO) adjuvant and a water-soluble spray dye.

Bayer Vegetation Management Stewardship Team



*The Bayer VMST provides vegetation management professionals and end-use customers with the technical support they need to be good stewards of the land and to help navigate an increasingly complex business and regulatory environment. The team translates company, market and university research into real-world solutions for controlling unwanted, invasive, or noxious weeds and brush, resulting in benefits like enhanced safety, productivity, appearance, habitat and value of our land, forests and infrastructure. Learn more about the Bayer Vegetation Management Stewardship Team and Bayer Solutions at [vm.bayer.us](http://vm.bayer.us).*

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